order of the articles, the Numbers of 83,
84, 95, 98, 87, 85 and 86, or a total of
618. The total standard Index Number
of these commodities in the selected
period (1867-77) is 7x100 = 700, *i.e.* the
number of separate articles multiplied by
the common term of each. • Hence in
1907 there occurred a fall in the
aggregate price of animal food of (700-
618 =) 82 in 700, which is equivalent, by
proportion, to a decline of 12 per cent,
using the nearer integer; in other words,
618 is 88 per cent of the 700, or a
diminution of 12 per cent, where 88 is the
aggregate Index Number of the specified
group for the year, to be compared with
the total standard Index Number of 100
(-f^2-) for the same group. The same
result is obviously obtained by dividing
the sum of the Index Numbers of the
articles by the number of articles, or «-
*«.=-88.

  The general Index Number of a group of
commodities is usually termed the
Summary Index Number. In the same
mode we can deduce the single Index
Number (so as to present a complete
conspectus of change) for the entire mass
of commodities comprised in the List for
any particular year of survey (thus
combining together Vegetable and Animal
Food, Minerals, Textiles, and
Miscellaneous Articles), and then obtain-
ing, by proportion with the standard scale,
the *general* variation of aggregated price
which has occurred. The individual Index
Numbers having been calculated, the sum
of the whole of these is furnished for each
year by Mr. Sauerbeck in the *Journal of
the Statistical Society* and by the
Economist in its annual Commercial
History and Eeview. The former
authority employs the prices of 45
articles, while the *Economist* adopts 47
which are reduced- to 22 by combining
certain articles of similar nature into one
group—thus, 2 descriptions of Sugar are
united, 4 kinds of Butchers' Meat
constitute a single group, 4 qualities of
Eaw Cotton are coalesced, and so on. The
total standard Index Number of the
Economist is accordingly 22x100 = 2200
as the fundamental basis of comparison.
Selecting the sum of the several Index
Numbers of the *"Economist,* formed from
the prices of the 22 commodities on the

1st of July, 1908 (which was 2310, and is termed the " Total Index Number"), we have the proportion, 2200 : 2310 :: 100 : *x,* whence 07=105, or an average general increase, in 1908, of